

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for wagering comprising:
2 a vending device that accepts a sales price from a current user and assigns a multi-
3 level wagering account having a play value to the current user;
4 one or more gaming machines wherein at least a portion of the play value from
5 the multi-level wagering account may be used to purchase a play;
6 a processor communicably coupled to the vending device and the one or more
7 gaming machines that increases the play value of one or more multi-level wagering
8 accounts of previous users based on the sale price accepted from the current user,
9 increases the play value of the multi-level wagering account of the current user based on
10 the sales price accepted from one or more subsequent users and decreases the play value
11 of the multi-level wagering account of the current user based on the plays purchased by
12 the current user at the one or more gaming machines; and
13 a data storage device communicably coupled to the processor that stores the play
14 value of each multi-level wagering account.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the vending device and the gaming machine are
2 integrated into a single device.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor and the data storage device are
2 integrated into a computer.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor distributes a portion of each sales
2 price accepted to an operator of the system.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein each multi-level wagering account expires after a
2 given time period and any unused play value for an expired multi-level wagering account
3 is distributed to an operator of the system.
- 1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the vending device provides the current user with
2 information about the multi-level wagering account that allows the current user to
3 purchase the play on the one or more gaming machines.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the information is stored in an electronic account,
2 or electronically or magnetically a card, a smart card, a chip, a RFID device, a token, a
3 personal data assistant, a communications device or other personal item.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the information comprises an account number and
2 a password or biometric data.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more gaming machines are one or more
2 video slot machine, video poker or blackjack machine, one or more computer games or a
3 network-based gaming system accessible by one or more computers or communication
4 devices.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the vending device is a network-based electronic
2 accounting system associated with a network-based gaming system.

1 11. The system of claim 1, wherein processor increases the play value of the multi-
2 level wagering accounts using a predetermined payout formula or a randomized payout
3 formula.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 one-level matrix.

1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 four-level matrix.

1 14. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor records the quantity of play
2 accumulated for each multi-level wagering account in the data storage device.

1 15. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor records one or more winnings
2 resulting from using the multi-level wagering account in the one or more gaming
3 machines in the data storage device.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the winnings are associated with the multi-level
2 wagering account, displayed at a remote location, transferred to a multi-level wagering
3 account, used to place one or more wagers or exchanged for cash.

- 1 17. The system of claim 1, wherein the play value of one or more multi-level
2 wagering accounts is accessed from a remote location.
- 1 18. A method for wagering comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a sales price from a current user;
3 assigning a multi-level wagering account having a play value to the current user
4 wherein a portion of the play value may be used to purchase a play on one or more
5 gaming machines;
6 increasing the play value of one or more multi-level wagering accounts of
7 previous users based on the sale price received from the current user;
8 increasing the play value of the multi-level wagering account of the current user
9 based on the sales price accepted from one or more subsequent users; and
10 decreasing the play value of the multi-level wagering account of the current user
11 based on the plays purchased by the current user at the one or more gaming machines.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of distributing a portion of
2 each sales price accepted to an operator of the system.
- 1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein each multi-level wagering account expires after
2 a given time period and any unused play value for an expired multi-level wagering
3 account is distributed to an operator of the system.
- 1 21. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of providing the current user
2 with information about the multi-level wagering account that allows the current user to
3 purchase the play on the one or more gaming machines.
- 1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the information is stored in an electronic
2 account, or electronically or magnetically a card, a smart card, a chip, a RFID device, a
3 token, a personal data assistant, a communications device or other personal item.
- 1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the information comprises an account number
2 and a password or biometric data.

1 24. The method of claim 18, wherein the one or more gaming machines are one or
2 more video slot machine, video poker or blackjack machine, one or more computer
3 games or a network-based gaming system accessible by one or more computers or
4 communication devices.

1 25. The method of claim 18, wherein the play value of the multi-level wagering
2 accounts is increased using a predetermined payout formula or a randomized payout
3 formula.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 one-level matrix.

1 27. The method of claim 25, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 four-level matrix.

1 28. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of recording the quantity of
2 play accumulated for each multi-level wagering account.

1 29. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of recording one or more
2 winnings resulting from using the multi-level wagering account in the one or more
3 gaming machines.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the winnings are associated with the multi-level
2 wagering account, displayed at a remote location, transferred to a multi-level wagering
3 account, used to place one or more wagers or exchanged for cash.

1 31. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of accessing the play value
2 of one or more multi-level wagering accounts from a remote location.

1 32. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium comprising:
2 a code segment for receiving a sales price from a current user;
3 a code segment for assigning a multi-level wagering account having a play value
4 to the current user wherein a portion of the play value may be used to purchase a play on
5 one or more gaming machines;

6 a code segment for increasing the play value of one or more multi-level wagering
7 accounts of previous users based on the sale price received from the current user;
8 a code segment for increasing the play value of the multi-level wagering account
9 of the current user based on the sales price accepted from one or more subsequent users;
10 and
11 a code segment for decreasing the play value of the multi-level wagering account
12 of the current user based on the plays purchased by the current user at the one or more
13 gaming machines.

1 33. A system for wagering comprising:
2 one or more multi-level wagering accounts;
3 a processor communicably coupled to the one or more gaming machines that
4 distributes play value in the one or more multi-level wagering accounts from a portion of
5 the sales price of other multi-level wagering accounts; and
6 one or more gaming machines wherein at least a portion of the play value from
7 the one or more multi-level wagering accounts may be used to purchase a play.

1 34. The system of claim 33, wherein the one or more gaming machines one or more
2 gaming machines are one or more video slot machine, video poker or blackjack machine,
3 one or more computer games or a network-based gaming system accessible by one or
4 more computers or communication devices.

1 35. The system of claim 33, wherein the play value is distributed using a computer.

1 36. The system of claim 34, wherein the one or more computer games are connected
2 to a computer.

1 37. The system of claim 33, wherein the one or more multi-level wagering accounts
2 are distributed by a vending machine connected to a computer.

1 38. The system of claim 33, wherein the play value accumulated in the multi-level
2 wagering account is determined by a predetermined payout formula based on subsequent
3 multi-level wagering account sales.

1 39. The system of claim 33, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 one-level matrix.

1 40. The system of claim 33, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 four-level matrix.

1 41. The system of claim 33, wherein the computer records the quantity of play
2 accumulated in one or more multi-level wagering accounts.

1 42. The system of claim 33, wherein the computer records one or more winnings
2 resulting from using the multi-level wagering account in the one or more multi-level
3 gaming machines.

1 43. The system of claim 42, wherein the winnings are associated with the multi-level
2 wagering account, displayed at a remote location, transferred to a multi-level wagering
3 account, used to place one or more wagers or exchanged for cash.

1 44. The system of claim 33, wherein the play value of one or more multi-level
2 wagering accounts is accessed from a remote location.

1 45. A method of multi-level wagering comprising the steps of:
2 accumulating play value in a multi-level wagering account; and
3 using the accumulated play value in a gaming machine.

1 46. The method of claim 45, wherein the play value is accumulated from a portion of
2 the sales price of other multi-level wagering accounts.

1 47. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of purchasing at least one multi-level
2 wagering account is by purchasing from a video slot machine or a vending machine.

1 48. The method of claim 46, wherein the video slot machine or vending machine is
2 computerized.

- 1 49. The method of claim 45, wherein the play value accumulated in the multi-level
2 wagering account is determined by a predetermined payout formula based on subsequent
3 multi-level wagering account sales.
- 1 50. The method of claim 49, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 one-level matrix.
- 1 51. The method of claim 49, wherein the predetermined payout formula is at least a
2 one-level matrix.
- 1 52. The method of claim 45 wherein a computer records the quantity of play
2 accumulated in one or more multi-level wagering accounts.
- 1 53. The method of claim 45, wherein a computer records winnings resulting from
2 using the multi-level wagering account in a gaming machine.
- 1 54. The method of claim 53, wherein the winnings are associated with the multi-level
2 wagering account, displayed at a remote location, transferred to a multi-level wagering
3 account, used to place one or more wagers or exchanged for cash.
- 1 55. The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of transferring the winnings
2 associated with the multi-level wagering account to another multi-level wagering
3 account.
- 1 56. The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of using the winnings
2 associated with the multi-level wagering account to place one or more wagers.
- 1 57. The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of exchanging the winnings
2 associated with the multi-level wagering account for cash.
- 1 58. The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of accessing the play value
2 of one or more multi-level wagering accounts from a remote location.

1 59. A system for multi-level wagering comprising:
2 one or more multi-level wagering accounts;
3 a processor communicably coupled to the one or more gaming machines that
4 distributes play value in the multi-level wagering accounts from a portion of the sales
5 price of the subsequent purchase of multi-level wagering accounts until a predetermined
6 play value is achieved; and
7 one or more gaming machines operated by the play value from the one or more
8 multi-level wagering accounts.

1 60. A method of multi-level wagering comprising the steps of:
2 purchasing at least one multi-level wagering account;
3 accumulating play value in the multi-level wagering account until a
4 predetermined play value is achieved; and
5 using the play value accumulated in the multi-level wagering account to purchase
6 a play.

1 61. A system for multi-level wagering comprising:
2 one or more multi-level wagering cards;
3 a processor that distributes play value in the multi-level wagering cards from a
4 portion of the sales price of other multi-level wagering cards until a predetermined play
5 value is achieved; and
6 one or more gaming machines capable of being operated by play value from the
7 one or more multi-level wagering cards.

1 62. A method of multi-level wagering comprising the steps of:
2 purchasing at least one multi-level wagering account;
3 accumulating play value in the multi-level wagering account; and
4 using the multi-level wagering account's accumulated play value to purchase a
5 play.

1 63. A system for multi-level wagering comprising:
2 one or more multi-level wagering cards;
3 a means for distributing play value in the multi-level wagering cards from a
4 portion of the sales price of other multi-level wagering cards until a predetermined play
5 value is achieved; and
6 one or more gaming machines capable of being operated by play value from the
7 one or more multi-level wagering cards.